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HI -LIGHTS AND SIRENS Memo Series 03-09

February 2003

TO: Ambulance Service Providers
Ambulance Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers
First Responder Organizations
EMS Coordinators
EMS Advisory Board
Emergency Physicians Advisory Committee

FROM: Bureau of EMS and Injury Prevention
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Systems Section

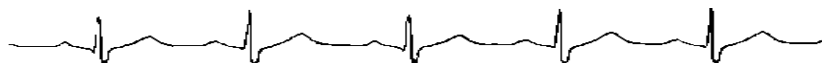
RE: Miscellaneous Updates

LICENSE REQUIRED TO PRACTICE

The ambulance service provider should have a copy of EMT licenses for each person on their service (running on an EMT license).

EMTs-Basic, IV-Tech, Intermediate, and Paramedic must hold a current license with each service with which they practice. Because the individual services' medical director must sign a license application for these EMTs, a separate license must be held by an individual EMT for each service for whom he responds/works. A current license must have been received for an EMT to operate with the ambulance service specified on the license.

An EMT license with one service is not transferable to another ambulance service. An individual is not licensed until he/she has received the actual license. If a person cannot produce a current license, don't allow that person to be on call.





NEW EMT-BASIC AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER



Congratulations to the Merton Fire Department EMS for being the first new EMT-Basic Ambulance Service Provider in many years. Members of the Merton Fire Department have been trained as EMTs-Basic and have acted as EMT first responders in their area for the ambulance services that did cover their village and township. Members of this service have worked long and hard to accomplish their goal of providing local ambulance service to their municipalities.

With a new MedTec ambulance, they hit the streets and highways of Merton at 12:01 AM on January 1, 2003. They are operating as an EMT-Basic service with approval to use a glucometer and glucagon, nebulized albuterol and aspirin for chest pain.

STATEWIDE EMS RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM COORDINATOR

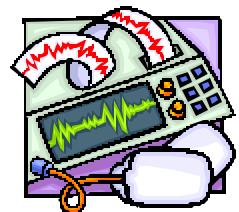
Welcome Paul Wittkamp to the EMS Systems and Licensing Section as our statewide EMS Radio Communications System Coordinator. Paul says that he has been involved with two-way radio equipment for most of his life. He comes to us from a job as a marketing and project manager with Spectrasite, a communications tower developer.

Paul has spent the last four years as a driver for a local ambulance service provider. Additionally, Paul has been active as the communications officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary based in Madison.

RURAL ACCESS TO EMERGENCY DEVICES ACT

On October 30, 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced \$11.9 million in Federal grants to states. The Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act authorizes grants to community partnerships to provide for the purchase, placement, and training in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and related activities in eligible rural areas. All services provided by the community partnership must be provided in an eligible rural county or Rural-Urban Commuting zip code. The Office of Rural Health Policy in the HSS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) administers the grants.

Notice of the grant became available in late May. Eligible applicants were instructed to submit grant applications to the EMS Section by June 15. As the lead applicant for Wisconsin, the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) submitted a grant application in July 2002. On October 30 the notice was received that the State of Wisconsin had received a \$250,000 grant.



The process now involves the hiring of a consultant who will travel to each community partnerships that submitted grant applications. Working with the consultant, each partnership will develop a three-year plan for the placement and purchase of AEDs in their communities. Priority for purchasing of AEDs will be First Responders (including law enforcement agencies), health care facilities, schools, and other facilities.



TRAINING PERMITS

Training permits can be applied for at all levels of licensure, which include; Basic, Basic-IV, Intermediate Provisional, Intermediate and Paramedic provided a student has met the training requirement for that specific licensure level in their respective class.

A new database was initiated in July and is still in a phase-in period. The training permit is included as part of that phase-in.

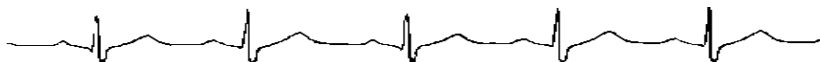
The Bureau of EMS and Injury Prevention (BEMSIP) has taken this opportunity to review our procedures regarding the processing of training permits to ensure we develop the most efficient system possible. During this phase-in period, the BEMSIP is using other avenues to authorize individuals to function as EMT-trainees in Wisconsin.

To summarize:

EMT Basic level - on November 1 the training centers were each provided with a listing of individuals eligible to function as trainees in Wisconsin. Beginning on November 8 each individual eligible to function as a trainee in Wisconsin was sent a letter authorizing the individual to function as a trainee in Wisconsin with the ambulance service indicated on their EMT-basic training permit application. A copy was also sent to the ambulance service provider. Future EMT-basic training permits will be handled in the same manor. Once the applications are reviewed, a letter will be sent to each individual indicating he/she is able to function as an EMT-basic trainee in Wisconsin. A copy will be sent to the ambulance service provider. The permit is in effect for 24 months from issue date of letter.

Basic-IV, Intermediate-Provisional, Intermediate and Paramedic training permits will be handled through the training center. The BEMSIP receives a certification list of individuals enrolled in a class and eligible for a training permit from the training center and a training permit application for each individual. The documentation provided is processed and a list is provided to the training center authorizing the individuals on the list to function as trainees at the appropriate level. This authorization is for the training center only, unlike the EMT-Basic training permit, which is with an ambulance service. The expiration date of training permits other than EMT-basics is the course end date.

To avoid further delays please supply the appropriate information when submitting an application. Necessary information needed, but often not provided and thus resulting in delays, is applicant signature, instructor signature, service director signature for basics, and medical director signature for all other levels. In addition, current CPR at the professional level is required at all times. If criminal history questions are marked yes, the appropriate documentation must be provided.





WISCONSIN EMS COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Communication Plan is both a communications guide for EMS providers and an overview of requirements for local EMS systems to assure that a statewide communication system is in place that can address daily needs as well as large scale multi-casualty situations. This document was created with input from an ad-hoc committee attached to the EMS Advisory Board and the Bureau of EMS and Injury Prevention, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services. The EMS Board officially approved the final version in September 2002.

The document is intended to serve three purposes:

- 1) Provide an overview of EMS Communications
- 2) Provide specific information on EMS communications in Wisconsin
- 3) Serve as a "users manual" for providers in creating and maintaining their EMS communications

The Wisconsin EMS Communications Plan can be obtained on the Wisconsin EMS WebPages at http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/DPH_EMSIP/EMS/system/EMS_Reports.htm. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the EMS Systems and Licensing Section at (608) 266-1568 and ask that a copy be sent to you.



WISCONSIN'S TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM

Marianne Peck RN, MSN

Wisconsin's Trauma Care System continues to move forward with the implementation of Regional Trauma Advisory Councils (RTACs). A key infrastructure component for a statewide trauma system, RTACs serve as the unifying foundation for all local/regional and state injury care participants to plan, implement, evaluate and modify injury care in Wisconsin.

In September, a letter went out from the Bureau of EMS & Injury Prevention requesting all EMS providers to select which RTAC their service would participate in based on their trauma referral patterns. Many services have not yet responded. Please use the following form to submit the requested information.

Contact Marianne Peck at peckme@dhfs.state.wi.us or at (608) 266-0601 for a copy of the September letter or for further information.



Regional Trauma Advisory Council (RTAC) Membership Selection

Please submit the following information (for the organization being submitted for RTAC Council membership) by phone, fax or email to:

Marianne Peck RN, MSN
Statewide Trauma Care System Coordinator
Phone - 608-266-0601
Fax - 608-261-6392

Peckme@dhfs.state.wi.us

Name of hospital
or EMS service:

Mailing address:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Select the
RTAC of choice:
(Check One)

- ? Far North Region
- ? North Central Region
- ? Northeast Region
- ? Fox Valley Region
- ? Southeast Region
- ? South Central Region
- ? Southwest Region
- ? West/Northwest Region